

SENATE RESOLUTION 107
By Harper

A RESOLUTION To honor Miss Rosa Hodge, a "Grand Ole Opry" tradition for more than thirty years.

WHEREAS, The "Grand Ole Opry," the rock-solid foundation for the growth and tremendous popularity of country music, has been built on tradition; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Hodge, who has faithfully served excellent freshly brewed coffee and fruit punch to Opry stars and numerous visitors for more than thirty years, from the historic Ryman Auditorium to the Grand Ole Opry House, is an important part of that noble tradition who is without equal; and

WHEREAS, Rosa was raised in Warrior, Alabama, where she was taught the value of hard work by her family; and

WHEREAS, After her husband died, Mrs. Hodge was a widow with the responsibility of raising four children; she moved to Nashville to be with her sister; and

WHEREAS, She was hired by National Life and Accident Insurance Company, the then parent company of WSM, initially to do cleaning and then to work with nurses; and

WHEREAS, Rosa often went with her nurse friends to the backstage area of the Grand Ole Opry on Friday and Saturday nights and was soon hired as the “coffee lady”; and

WHEREAS, After twenty-five years with National Life and putting each of her four children, two boys and two girls, through college, Mrs. Hodge retired, but continued to serve her loyal customers at the Opry; and

WHEREAS, Today, “Rosa’s Cantina,” is a 4-5 foot square area about 25-feet from the Opry stage; and

WHEREAS, for each performance, she prepares two giant urns of coffee and a dispenser of punch, wipes her counters clean, keeps the urns full, and chats with her customers; and

WHEREAS, “Miss Rosa” maintains a running dialogue with her grateful customers always sprinkled with “Oh, Lord, honey” and “You doin’ all right tonight?”, or a favorite adage of hers: “We’ve got more to be thankful for than we’ve got to complain about”; and

WHEREAS, Despite staying up late on Saturday nights, this spry eighty-one year old catches a cab after the Opry, makes it back home before 1:00 a.m. and faithfully attends Jackson Street Church of Christ on Sunday mornings; and

WHEREAS, Like Roy Acuff, Chet Atkins and Minnie Pearl, no one could ever take the place of “Miss Rosa”; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to honor Rosa Hodge, who is an exemplary citizen of our state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we honor and commend Rosa Hodge and wish her well in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.